

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of selling healthcare services to a patient, the method comprising:

establishing a plurality of contracting healthcare service providers;

establishing an electronic healthcare marketplace operated by at least one marketplace operator, the electronic healthcare marketplace managing communication between a plurality of registered patients and the plurality of contracting healthcare service providers and providing a contact template usable by at least one of a prospective healthcare service provider and a prospective patient to submit a request for information to the at least one marketplace operator in order to obtain information about the healthcare marketplace;

providing, via a patient terminal, a case statement template to at least one of the plurality of patients having a basic information section for specifying an identifier of the patient and contact information of the patient and a clinical information section for specifying a ~~category of a procedure, a specific procedure,~~ a complaint of the patient, and past medical history of the patient;

transmitting case statement information specified in the case statement template over a network to the electronic healthcare marketplace, ~~at least a portion of the case statement information provided by the patient;~~

preparing, via the electronic healthcare marketplace, a case statement based on the case statement information;

delivering the case statement to at least one contracting healthcare service provider; ~~and~~

providing, via a healthcare provider terminal, a proposal response template to the at least one contracting healthcare service provider, the proposal response template having a physician section for specifying a name, medical education information, certification information, and

healthcare practice information for the at least one contracting healthcare service provider and at least one proposed procedure period suggested by the at least one contracting healthcare service provider and a facility section for specifying procedures performed information and non-clinical services information for a facility associated with the at least one contracting healthcare service provider, the non-clinical services information including at least one of travel arrangement assistance availability, private room availability, translator availability, childcare availability, eldercare availability, and guest accomodation availability;

preparing a first response based on information specified in the proposal response template, the first response including the a price; the name, the medical education information, the certification information, and the healthcare practice information of the at least one contracting healthcare service provider, the at least one proposed procedure period suggested by the at least one contracting healthcare service provider, and the procedures performed information and the non-clinical services information for the facility associated with the at least one contracting healthcare service provider; and

delivering the first response to the at least one of the plurality of patients.

~~receiving a response from the at least one contracting healthcare service provider, the response based on the delivered case statement and including a price, a clinical track record, and service information.~~

2. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the response includes information concerning one or more clinical quality indicators for one healthcare service provider.
3. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the one or more clinical quality indicators includes the mortality rate for a medical procedure.
4. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the one or more clinical quality indicators includes the number of times a medical procedure has been performed.

5. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the one or more clinical quality indicators includes the number of times a medical procedure has been performed by a physician associated with one of the one or more contracting healthcare service providers.
6. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising reviewing the response from the at least one healthcare service provider.
7. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein reviewing the response from the at least one healthcare service provider includes reviewing the response with a referring physician.
8. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the response includes information concerning the total cost of a medical procedure.
9. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising securing the services of a responding healthcare service provider by sending a deposit to the responding healthcare service provider.
10. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising securing the services of a responding healthcare service provider by sending a deposit to a marketplace operator and sending a remaining amount to the responding healthcare service provider.
11. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein preparing a case statement from case statement information includes filtering unique identifying information.
12. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising scheduling an outpatient visit with the patient and a staff member of the at least one contracting healthcare service provider.
13. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the price is a not-to-exceed amount.
14. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the price includes charges of a facility of the at least contracting healthcare service provider and charges of principal professionals performing the healthcare services.

15. (Currently Amended) A system of selling healthcare services, the system comprising:

at least one marketplace operator;

a contact mechanism for providing a contact template usable by at least one of a prospective patient and a prospective healthcare service provider to submit a request for information to the at least one marketplace operator;

a database of contracting healthcare service providers;

a healthcare case statement information submission mechanism for providing a case statement template to at least one of a plurality of patients, the case statement template having a basic information section for specifying unique identifying information for uniquely identifying the patient, the case statement template further having a clinical information section for specifying a ~~category of a procedure, a specific procedure,~~ a complaint of the patient, and past medical history of the patient, the healthcare case statement information submission mechanism for receiving case statement information provided by the at least one of the plurality of patient via the case statement template and for transmitting case statement information over a network, the case statement information including the unique identifying information for uniquely identifying the patient;

a case statement engine for generating de-identified case statements based on the case statement information, the de-identified case statements excluding the unique identifying information;

a healthcare case statement distribution engine for delivering de-identified case statements to healthcare service providers;

a proposal construction engine for providing a proposal response template to at least one of the healthcare service providers, the proposal response template having a physician section for specifying a name, medical education information, certification information, and healthcare practice information for the at least one of the healthcare service providers and at least one proposed procedure period suggested by the at least one of the healthcare service providers and a

facility section for specifying procedures performed information and non-clinical services information for a facility associated with the at least one of the healthcare service providers, the non-clinical services information including at least one of travel arrangement assistance availability, private room availability, translator availability, childcare availability, eldercare availability, and guest accomodation availability, the proposal construction engine for preparing a first response based on information specified in the proposal response template, the first response including the name, the medical education information, the certification information, and the healthcare practice information of the at least one of the healthcare service providers, the at least one proposed procedure period suggested by the at least one of the healthcare service providers, and the procedures performed information and the non-clinical services information for the facility associated with the at least one of the healthcare service providers including clinical quality indicator areas; and

a response-receiving engine for receiving responses from healthcare service providers and for delivering the first response to the at least one of the plurality of patients providers.

16. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 15, further comprising a database of patients.
17. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 15, wherein the response-receiving engine checks responses for clinical quality indicators.
18. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the clinical quality indicators include the mortality rate for a medical procedure.
19. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the clinical quality indicators include the number of times a medical procedure has been performed.
20. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the clinical quality indicators include the number of times a medical procedure has been performed by a physician associated with one particular response.
21. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 15, further comprising a referring physician template.

22. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 15, wherein the ~~further comprising a~~ contact mechanism includes ~~including~~ a number of input mechanisms to construct a message.
23. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 15, wherein the proposal construction engine checks responses for a price of healthcare services listed therein.
24. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 15, further comprising a billing module.
25. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 15, further comprising at least one patient terminal coupled to the healthcare case statement distribution engine.
26. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 15, further comprising at least one service provider terminal coupled to the healthcare case statement distribution engine.
27. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 15, wherein the healthcare case statement submission mechanism; the healthcare case statement distribution engine; the proposal construction engine; and the response-receiving engine are located on a server.

28. (Currently Amended) A method of selling healthcare services to a patient, the method comprising:

establishing a plurality of contracting healthcare service providers;

establishing an electronic healthcare marketplace operated by at least one marketplace operator, the electronic healthcare marketplace managing communication between a plurality of registered patients and the plurality of contracting healthcare service providers and providing a contact template usable by at least one of a prospective healthcare service provider and a prospective patient to submit a request for information to the at least one marketplace operator in order to obtain information about the healthcare marketplace;

providing, via a patient terminal, a case statement template having a basic information section for specifying an identifier of the patient and contact ~~health insurance~~ information of the patient and a clinical information section for specifying a ~~category of a procedure, a specific~~ procedure, a complaint of the patient, and past medical history of the patient;

transmitting case statement information, at least a portion of which is provided by the patient, from the case statement template over a network to the electronic healthcare marketplace;

preparing, via the electronic healthcare marketplace, a case statement based on the case statement information;

establishing profile criteria for each of the plurality of contracting healthcare service providers, the profile criteria limiting case statements made available to a contracting healthcare service provider based on at least one of a medical area associated with the clinical requirements of the patient, a distance between a patient location and a service location associated with the contracting healthcare service provider, and an insurance carried by the patient;

making the case statement available to each contracting healthcare service provider whose profile criteria matches the case statement;~~and~~

providing, via a healthcare provider terminal, a proposal response template to at least one contracting healthcare service provider whose profile criteria match the case statement, the proposal response template having a physician section for specifying a name, medical education information, certification information, and healthcare practice information for the at least one contracting healthcare service provider and at least one proposed procedure period suggested by the at least one contracting healthcare service provider and a facility section for specifying procedures performed information and non-clinical services information for a facility associated with the at least one contracting healthcare service provider, the non-clinical services information including at least one of travel arrangement assistance availability, private room availability, translator availability, childcare availability, eldercare availability, and guest accomodation availability;

receiving a response to the case statement from the at least one contracting healthcare service provider[,]; ~~the response including a price, a clinical track record, and non-clinical information.~~

preparing a first response based on information specified in the proposal response template, the first response including the name, the medical education information, the certification information, and the healthcare practice information of the at least one contracting healthcare service provider, the at least one proposed procedure period suggested by the at least one contracting healthcare service provider, and the procedures performed information and the non-clinical services information for the facility associated with the at least one contracting healthcare service provider; and

delivering the first response to the patient.

29. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the response includes information concerning one or more clinical quality indicators for one healthcare service provider.
30. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the one or more clinical quality indicators includes the mortality rate for a medical procedure.

31. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the one or more clinical quality indicators includes the number of times a medical procedure has been performed.
32. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the one or more clinical quality indicators includes the number of times a medical procedure has been performed by a physician associated with one of the one or more contracting healthcare service providers.
33. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 28, further comprising reviewing the response from the at least one healthcare service provider.
34. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 33, wherein reviewing the response from the at least one healthcare service provider includes reviewing the response with a referring physician.

35-39. (Canceled)

40. (New) A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising providing, via the patient terminal, a comparison page for displaying the first response and a second response.

41. (New) A system as claimed in claim 15, wherein the response-receiving engine provides a comparison page for displaying the first response and a second response.

42. (New) A method as claimed in claim 28, further comprising providing, via the patient terminal, a comparison page for displaying the first response and a second response.

43. (New) A method of selling healthcare services to a patient, the method comprising:

establishing a plurality of contracting healthcare service providers;

establishing an electronic healthcare marketplace operated by at least one marketplace operator, the electronic healthcare marketplace managing communication between a plurality of registered patients and the plurality of contracting healthcare service providers and providing a contact template usable by at least one of a prospective healthcare service provider and a prospective patient to submit a request for information to the at least one marketplace operator in order to obtain information about the healthcare marketplace;

providing, via a patient terminal, a case statement template to at least one of the plurality of patients having a basic information section for specifying an identifier of the patient and contact information of the patient and a clinical information section for specifying a procedure, a complaint of the patient, and past medical history of the patient;

transmitting case statement information specified in the case statement template over a network to the electronic healthcare marketplace;

preparing, via the electronic healthcare marketplace, a case statement based on the case statement information, wherein preparing a case statement based on the case statement information includes filtering unique identifying information;

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delivering the case statement to at least one contracting healthcare service provider;

providing, via a healthcare provider terminal, a proposal response template to the at least one contracting healthcare service provider, the proposal response template having a physician section for specifying a name, medical education information, certification information, and healthcare practice information for the at least one contracting healthcare service provider and at least one proposed procedure period suggested by the at least one contracting healthcare service provider and a facility section for specifying procedures performed information and non-clinical services information for a facility associated with the at least one contracting healthcare service provider, the non-clinical services information including at least one of travel arrangement assistance availability, private room availability, translator availability, childcare availability, eldercare availability, and guest accomodation availability;

preparing a first response based on information specified in the proposal response template, the first response including the information concerning the total cost of a medical procedure, charges of a facility of the at least contracting healthcare service provider, and charges of principal professionals performing the healthcare services; the name, the medical education information, the certification information, and the healthcare practice information of the at least one contracting healthcare service provider, the at least one proposed procedure period suggested by the at least one contracting healthcare service provider, and the procedures performed information and the non-clinical services information for the facility associated with the at least one contracting healthcare service provider;

delivering the first response to the at least one of the plurality of patients; and

scheduling an outpatient visit with the patient and a staff member of the at least one contracting healthcare service provider.